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AND

Literary Gazette.

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Temporary Committe WILLIAM ORTON SMITH SHELDON.

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TO BOOKSELLERS, BOOK-BUYERS, AND BOOK-READERS.

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TO THE TRADE.

We shall be very much obliged to those of our old subscribers who promptly remit the amount of their subscription for the coming year. It appears almost unnecessary to refer to the especial claims of this journal upon the Trade, for we feel assured that every intelligent Publisher and Bookseller must appreciate its value. The great depression of business during the last several months has, of course, somewhat affected our prosperity; but we may say with great truth, that under all the circumstances, we have every reason to be satisfied with the support extended.

BOOKSELLERS' CREDITS.

We print some more communications on this subject, which still preserves its interest with the Trade. Among other letters, we have received one from "A Buckeye Bookseller," that, departing from the merits of the case, opens up a new phase in personal animadversions. This can only tend to complicate and confuse the matter, and therefore, as a matter of good policy, as well as taste, we decline to publish it. Nevertheless, we shall be well pleased to hear from our correspondent in a less objectionable communication.

BOOKSELLERS' CREDITS.
SIX MONTHS OR FOUR.

For the Publishers' Circular.

I am a "constant reader" of the PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR, and have carefully examined the resolution of the Association regarding short credits, the agreement made and signed by the leading publishers in New York, in regard to the same as well as all of the communications on the subject from your contributors, and I have also read your note soliciting further contributions, and I venture to send you this.

As I understand this subject, it is a project proposed by the principal publishers in New York, most of whom are members of the Association.

As I am not a member of the Association, or a *New York publisher*, I have no right to object—plainly it is no affair of mine. If that body abridge or extend their credits, reduce or advance their prices, extend or contract other facilities, by combination or agreement, or by any other means, it is their affair.

But as a Publisher and a Jobber of books, I cannot consent to that Association, speaking or resolving for the whole body of the trade. I do not mean to intimate that they have, but from the general tone given to the subject by their resolves and communications, I have feared that some misapprehension might arise in the minds of those most largely interested in the result of this agitation—I mean of course, in the minds of our customers—the great body of book-buyers out of the large cities.

That A. being a publisher and jobber, can determine at what time he will sell his books is true, and that he has a right to do so is also true; that he may combine with B. to sell only at four months is equally true and lawful; but that because A. and B. do so combine, is it right or just that E. and F. should be compelled to join the combination? What is for A., and B.'s interest, may not be for the interest of E. and F., and E. and F. may conclude that they can better manage their own affairs in their own way, than by combination.

To my mind this subject can be reduced to one or two simple propositions:

1st. Is it necessary that the credit should be reduced from six to four months?

2d. Is it expedient?

If this first proposition is answered in the affirmative, the 2d falls, because, if it is necessary to the success of the publisher, it is of course expedient.

As to its necessity, I will venture to assert, that a publisher who *confines his business to limits warranted by his capital*, can afford to sell his publications on a credit of six months, and be amply remunerated for his labor and capital. And I will venture further to assert, that this proposition cannot be gainsayed.

As to the expediency, I respectfully submit that six months' time is little enough for a retailer of books to convert his purchases into money, and to pay his bills, provided he keeps up a general supply and a good variety of stock.

The retailing of books is not a great business under any circumstances; it is an agreeable and a respectable calling, brings the bookseller into contact and association with the best men, and best minds, and for this is frequently sought, but it is not a largely money-making business.

Now if six months is little time enough to convert purchases into money with an assortment of books always on hand, and even then the business is not largely productive, what will be the effect of a reduction of facilities that will certainly revolutionize the retailer's affairs? Will it not drive a large number out of the business? will they not seek other and more profitable means of livelihood?

The greatest difficulty a publisher has is to reach the public, or in other words, to bring his books before the eye of the purchaser, I mean the consumer; an increased number of booksellers always has, and always will, increase the consumption of books. The retail bookseller is the avenue of the publisher to the eye of the consumer.

Is it expedient to close up this avenue, or obstruct it in the least either by individual effort, or combination? Is it not wiser, rather to combine for the purpose of opening wider this avenue, and granting new facilities? I present these hastily written suggestions, and trust that before this important revolution in credits is finally adopted, the publishers who have approved of the combination, will consider if it would not be wiser to encourage those who are selling to the consumers, to make the business of retailing books so profitable, that others may be induced to enter into it, and to assist rather than obstruct a clear passage for our publications to the consumer. B.

January 2d, 1858.

"A New York Publisher" induces a reply from "Charleston," by the notice he makes of the latter's communication in the "Circular" of the 19th ult. He repudiates the idea of "a preference being shown to the South," and attributes to "Charleston" the assertion, that six months' credits are to the Western dealer an "inducement to rascality." His own experience leads him to the conclusion, that there are as many losses in the Southern trade as in the Northern, the sales to the former being as one-fourth to three-fourths of the latter.

"Charleston" makes assertions based on facts in his possession—LETTERS, which speak of the availability of Southern paper, over Northern and Northwestern, prompted the assertion, that "a preference was shown to the South." THAT LETTER, from a WESTERN BOOKSELLER, is his authority for the expression, "inducement to rascality" (which letter, by-the-way, may be considered of *doubtful Western origin*). As to his "experience in the matter of stating facts," it is customary, and considered fair and honest to PROVE whatever is so stated by FIGURES (not figures of speech, but of arithmetic.)

"Charleston" doubts the wisdom of the bold assertion, that "New York Publishers" WILL pull the wool over their customers' eyes, when they find a subject; "that there are some *dealers in old clothes up Chatham street*," who have the name of WOOLLING, he does not doubt, but is unwilling to believe it of any respectable publisher, unless the term be applied to some unfortunate tradesman, whose urgent wants induce him to make calls on those, who, he is pleased to think, are willing to respond, perhaps, to a five or ten-day overdraft.

"Charleston" is not easily "cozened," and is not susceptible to VERBAL "tickling." Having arrived at years of discretion, he is fortunately well informed enough in the ways of the world (outside, as well as IN the book trade), to be able to detect "*selfishness*," and, what appears to him much worse, "CLIQUEISM," among the gentlemen of the New York trade.

"A New York Publisher" is fraternally requested by "Charleston," to "REFORM IT ALTOGETHER."

CHARLESTON.

Literary Intelligence.

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.—Lord Napier has in the course of preparation a carefully guarded international copyright treaty, which he designs submitting to the consideration of our Government at an early day. The treaty is to continue in force five years, but proposes the copyright to run ten years, though on this point his lordship would say seven, or even five years, if the Administration should object to a greater length of time. The subject of the international copyright is one which engaged much of the attention of the diplomatists of England and America, and without any practical result. The American public now enjoy an unrestricted license of publishing, selling, buying and reading any and all foreign books they please. Any change of existing laws would be to abridge this license, which is repugnant to the American notions of liberty. The people would be yielding a positive advantage, which is perceptible to all, for a possible equivalent which but the few appreciate or understand. Under these circumstances, I apprehend Lord Napier will find it difficult to pass an international copyright through the Senate, though the Executive Department of the Government should approve it, which will likely be the case. A notice of this contemplated negotiation has appeared in the newspaper press of the country, and without exception, so far as I have noticed, the movement has been approved as just and equitable to authors. The new treaty will propose that publishers of either country, republishing the works of authors of the other, shall secure to said authors a small pittance, say three or five cents per copy on each and every copy sold. This, it would seem to be, is simple justice; yet our trade have the privilege now of reproducing all English works, and it is exceedingly doubtful if they will agree to have that privilege abridged, or a tax levied upon it which does not already exist, and that, too, for the benefit of the foreign author.—*Cor. Richmond Enquirer.*

INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT.—We are glad to be informed that there is some prospect of an International Copyright arrangement between the United States and Great Britain. As our readers know, we have steadily opposed the scheme advocated by British publishers, and seconded by a few Utopian American authors, viz.: a mutual extension of full copyright privileges, without limitation of any sort, to the authors of both countries. We have opposed this because it would sacrifice to British interests, and especially to the interests of British publishers, the important and multiplied interests of our printers, paper-makers, type-founders, book-binders, stereotypers, &c., &c., without any equivalent in return.

At last, however, as it appears, more practical views are beginning to be entertained on both sides of the water in reference to this subject. Mr. Goodrich may claim the credit of having suggested, in his late work—*Recollections of a Lifetime*—a scheme which has met the approval of the leading publishers in New York, who have appointed a Committee for the purpose of giving effect to its provisions. Mr. Goodrich's proposition, substantially adopted by the leading publishers of this City, is as follows:

1. An author, being a citizen of Great Britain, shall have copyright in the United States for a period not exceeding fourteen years, on the following conditions:
2. He shall give due notice in the United States of his intention to secure his copyright in this country three months before the publication of his book, and this shall be issued in the United States, within thirty days after its publication in Great Britain.
3. His work shall be published by an American citizen, who shall lodge a certificate in the office of the Clerk of the Court of the District where he resides, stating in whose behalf the copyright is taken, and this shall be printed on the back of the title-page.
4. The work shall be printed on American paper, and the binding shall be wholly executed in the United States.
5. This privilege shall be extended only to books, and not to periodicals.
6. The arrangement thus made in behalf of the British authors in America to be extended to American authors in Great Britain and upon similar conditions.

Without meaning to say that this schedule, in all respects, meets our views, we may remark that, in the main, it conforms to what we have always advocated. It gives substantial protection and remuneration to authors, British and American, and that, too, with due regard to the industrial interests of this country involved in the question. It will satisfy, or at least appease, that claim of justice on the part of authors which has been the chief argument in favor of International Copyright, and it will do this in a manner to stimulate authorship, without materially increasing the cost of books, even those of foreign origin.

In connection with this question of International Copyright, Mr. Goodrich has given us some exceedingly curious and interesting statistics on the subject of the book-trade, showing its growth from 1820 to 1856. These have a very important bearing, as it appears from them that the element of British authorship in American publications is not over twenty per cent., and is constantly diminishing. Hence he infers that the time cannot be very remote when the tables may be turned upon us, and the republication of American books in Great Britain may be even greater than the republication of British books in this country.

Whether this is a matter to be adjusted by treaty or legislation, we do not now attempt to discuss. We only notice the subject to suggest that, if the parties interested will limit their views to some such practical scheme as is indicated above, we may have International Copyright with Great Britain. If, however, not satisfied with this, either British authors or publishers insist upon more, they will get nothing.—*New York Times.*

Miss Eliza Leslie, who died in Gloucester, N. J., on Friday, was 69 years old. Her father was of Scottish and her mother of Swedish descent. She was born in Philadelphia; her brother, the distinguished painter, in England. Her first essay at authorship was a little volume, entitled "Seventy-five Receipts," for household use. But she first won a literary name by the sketch called "Mrs. Washington Potts," which appeared in 1832. This was followed the next year by a collection of humorous stories under the title of "Pencil Sketches." Other works subsequently added to her reputation. But it is as a writer of books on cookery and housekeeping that Miss Leslie is most widely known. It is impossible to say how much our homes have been improved and our household comforts increased by her efforts in that department. In her conversation Miss Leslie is said to have been spirited and entertaining, exhibiting that variety of talent which belonged in an unusual degree to her family. Miss Leslie's father was a man of much ingenuity, a devoted student of mathematics and natural philosophy, and a familiar friend of Franklin, Rittenhouse, Jefferson and others of the great men of Philadelphia society.—*Boston Post.*

New Publications

Received at the Office of the AMERICAN PUBLISHERS' CIRCULAR.

[In the following List will be found the names of such books only as have been sent to this Journal. The titles of all books as they are issued will be regularly inserted in the proper column.]

MASON BROTHERS publish a very useful pocket volume, "The New York Almanac and Yearly Record, for the Year 1858," comprising a mass of information, complete thermometrical tables for 1857, a diary for 1858, chronological tables, the new Charter of the City of New York, &c., &c.

TICKNOR & FIELDS have got out another of Capt. Mayne Reid's attractive volumes. This is "The Plant Hunters; or, Adventures among the Himalaya Mountains," and contains several spirited illustrations.

C. S. FRANCIS & Co. publish "Salt Water; or, the Sea Life and Adventures of Neil D'Arcy, the Midshipman," by William G. Kingston, author of "Peter the Whaler," etc., with illustrations.

Sprenger & Westhaeffer favor us with the second volume of "The Fathers of the German Reformed Church in Europe and America." It contains "the lives of the Fathers of the Church in America, who entered the ministry from 1748 to 1786—belonging to the Colonial period of our country's history, and including the dark years of the American Revolutionary War. It includes all those who were sent in by the Fathers in Holland—whose supervision over the Church in this country ceased about the year 1791—a type of ministers in this respect peculiar, and differing in some important particulars from those who succeed them." It is expected that another volume will bring the work down to the present time.

Robert Carter & Brothers publish "Memories of Gennesaret," by the Rev. John R. Macduff, author of "Morning and Night Watches," "Words of Jesus," etc., etc. The author observes: "the graphic description of 'Gennesaret' and 'the Land of Gennesaret' in Mr. Stanley's recent work 'Sinai and Palestine,' suggested the following pages. It occurred to the author that, as in a previous volume (Memories of Bethany,) he might group together with advantage the varied scenes which give an undying interest to the shores of Tiberias,—interweaving the Scriptural references to a region, which, as a sanctuary of holy thought, will yield in interest to no other in sacred story."

New Announcements since our Last Issue.

William Gowans.

The World of Mind, an Element Book, by Isaac Taylor.
Jerusalem Past and Present, by the same.
Ballads of Scotland, by Prof. Aytoun.

James Challen & Sons.

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List of New Works.

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Agassiz.—Contributions to the Natural History of the United States of America. By Louis Agassiz. First Monograph, in three parts. I. Essay on Classification. II. North American Testudinata. III. Embryology of the Turtle: with thirty-four plates. 2 vols. 4to. [Little, Brown & Co.] 24 00

Astor Library.—Catalogue; or, Alphabetical Index of the Astor Library. In two parts. Part I. Authors and Books. In 4 vols. Vol. 1. A—E. Paper. 8vo. pp. 494. [D. Appleton & Co.] 2 50

Barry.—The Sacramentals of the Holy Catholic Church; or, Flowers from the Garden of the Liturgy. By Rev. Wm. J. Barry. 12mo. pp. 300. [John P. Walsh.] 75

Gauss.—Theory of the Motion of the Heavenly Bodies Moving about the Sun in Conic Sections. A Translation of Gauss's Theoria Motus; with an Appendix. By Charles Henry Davis. 4to. [Little, Brown & Co.] 5 00

Harbaugh.—The Fathers of the German Reformed Church in Europe and America. By Rev. H. Harbaugh, A.M., author of "The Sainted Dead," "Heavenly Home," "Birds of the Bible," "Union with the Church," and "The Life of Schlatter." Vol. II. 12mo. pp. 408. [Sprenger & Westhaeffer.] 1 00

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Macduff.—Memories of Gennesaret. By the Rev. John R. Macduff, author of "Morning and Night Watches," "Words of Jesus," "Mind of Jesus," "Footsteps of St. Paul," etc., etc. 12mo. pp. 388. [Robert Carter & Brothers.] 1 00

New York Almanac and Yearly Record for the Year 1858, being the Eighty-third Year of the Independence of the United States of America. Containing in addition to the Calendar, a Record of the state of the Thermometer for every day in the year ending December 1st, 1857, a Complete Diary for the Year 1858, with a great amount of Tables, and useful Information generally. 32mo. pp. 226. [Mason Brothers.] 25

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